



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Legislative Leaders Focusing on 'The Four Questions that Matter'

Question number one will be answered Thursday

Lansing - On Thursday, the Revenue Estimating Conference will establish the first estimate for fiscal year 2005-06 revenue, kicking off budget deliberations. Legislative leaders today said the primary challenges will be making government live within its means, prioritizing state spending, and delivering results to Michigan citizens.

"We need to focus on the four questions that matter," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "We need to determine the state's priorities and then focus our limited resources on those priorities."

The four questions are:

1. How much revenue will the state have for fiscal year 2006?
2. What results matter most to Michigan's citizens and how does government set priorities to attain those results?
3. What percentage of the budget should be spent to achieve each result?
4. How can government best deliver results?

Question number one will be answered Thursday.

"Michigan's government has to start living within its means," said House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Nov. "Michigan families do it every day and so do job providers. They expect state government to do the same. We have to set our goals for the state and then make the difficult decisions needed to accomplish the positive results taxpayers deserve."

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